



Distance Learning Equipment Requirements

Distance Learning programs with Grand Canyon National Park require that your school has videoconferencing equipment or high-speed internet and the capability of downloading Skype. Most videoconferencing systems allow for two-way communications that involves both video and audio. The requirements to participate in a Distance Learning program are:

- High Speed Internet--Videoconferencing requires a minimum connection speed of 384 KB per second. If your school has High Speed Internet, it is likely that we will be able to do a program for your school. To receive the quality of service desired in these presentations, it may be necessary for the school's technology specialist to implement a system that gives priority to videoconference traffic.
- Videoconference Unit--We recommend that you use a stand-alone videoconference machine such as Polycom, Cisco or Life Size. However, if your school does not have that option, we can also connect with your school using Skype. Download Skype for free by going to www.skype4free.com.
- IP Address or Skype Username-- In order to connect with your school, you need to provide us with your school's Internet Portal address. Your school's technology specialist should know this address if you do not. If you are connecting with Grand Canyon using Skype please set up a free account with your school and send us your Skype name.
- Firewalls- Firewalls, which are in place to protect your school's computer networks, can sometimes prevent us from connecting with your school. Please contact your technology specialist to determine if this may be a problem. If so, these firewalls will need to be temporarily inactivated in order for us to make the connection.
- Large screen to project image, speakers, video camera and computer- If you lack a videoconferencing system then these pieces will be needed to connect using Skype.

If you have questions, please contact the Distance Learning Coordinator, Amala Posey at Amala_Posey@nps.gov or call 928-638-7793 for more information.